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AUG 1950

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

**SUBJECT:** Immediate Survey of Present Soviet Sufficiency in Aviation Fuels

**REFERENCES:**

- (a) Letter from Deputy Director, Staff, Munitions Board, to DCI, 19 May 1950 #34363
- (b) Memorandum from AD/ORE to Service Intelligence Agencies, Deputy Director for Intelligence, Joint Staff, and Director, Staff, Munitions Board, 20 June 1950, subject: "Munitions Board Request for Studies of Soviet Purchases of Selected Commodities"
- (c) IM-181, "Resources and Allocations of Steel, Aluminum, Petroleum, Electric Power, and Technical Manpower for the USSR, 1949-1952", Revised 10 February 1950
- (d) Memorandum from AD/ORE to Service Intelligence Agencies, Deputy Director for Intelligence, Joint Staff, 6 July 1950

1. Developments in Korea have required the writing of numerous forecasts of possible Soviet intentions. Such forecasts have inevitably hinged upon, or at least have been strongly colored by, our tentative estimate that the Soviet Union will not be industrially ready, particularly with respect to certain critical items, for a sustained global war for several years.

2. While the complete survey referred to in the foregoing references probably cannot, even with the greatest priority be completed until November or December, it has occurred to me that we should be able to make a test run of sufficiency in aviation fuels in a much shorter time. This subject has already received a great deal of study by both our Agencies, and there is complete agreement regarding its importance as an index of capabilities. Furthermore, the changes in availability of this item

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which would be brought about by a sudden Soviet recourse to arms are probably capable of more exact determination than any other single major item.

3. CIA will assume responsibility both for indigenous production and for acquisition of production and stocks in the overrun territories.

4. It is therefore requested that your agency undertake, as a matter of priority, the determination, preferably by 1 September 1950, of the following items:

- A. Determination of aviation fuels requirements of the Soviet Air Force for the first and second years of a sustained major war effort commencing 1 January 1951, according to a campaign to be mutually agreed upon. In general, the campaign should cover the initial territorial acquisitions which the Soviet Union could reasonably be expected to set up as a minimum in engaging upon such global war. Grades of the fuels to be mutually agreed upon for the guidance of CIA's work on the production of these fuels.
- B. The determination of the probable percentage of reduction in production that can be accomplished by our holding schedule in a mutually agreed list of plants.

5. For preliminary agreement on these and other questions that undoubtedly will come up, it is requested that you immediately designate a representative for work on this project. [redacted] CIA chairman of the overall project, is designated as CIA representative for this interim project.

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ORE:D/EE [redacted] 1 Aug 50  
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Signed - J. H. C. 8/31/50  
A. H. HILLMAN  
Rear Admiral, USN  
Director of Central  
Intelligence